

This morning's news grabs the headline, "the first moon landing in over fifty years." These are exciting times to tune in while global crises and political challenges plague our world. Fifty years ago, it is said the first lunar landing was a unifying moment in our nation. In the height of the cold war with the Cuban Missile Crisis a few years earlier with President Kennedy being shot in that decade, there was much upheaval. The Vietnam War and protests to those fighting overseas divided the nation. Still, many tuned in to see history being made with the familiar quote, "one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind," heard on TV. While there is ongoing debate as to what Neil Armstrong really said, 530 million tuned in to observe.

More than two billion Christians observe Lent. Lent is more than watching but it is essential to listen. We listen to scripture through lectio divina. We listen to prayers and podcasts. We dive into Bible Studies and time spent apart with God listening.

Even after last week's first week of Lent with Jesus being driven by the Spirit into the wilderness. The devil was trying to confuse him with words. I find myself still struck by the NRSV use of the word, "drive." How does the Spirit drive us? How is the Spirit using this time of wilderness to confront the ways we need to tune out the other voices and tune into the one who forever changed the world, even more so than the spectacular moment of Neil Armstrong walking on the moon.

How is the Spirit driving you to tune in and listen? How can you grow in Christ and with each other as part of this community of faith here at Walnut Grove UMC? We observe Lent to grow closer to Jesus Christ and take this journey to re-member who and whose we are in Christ. During these forty days, Lord, continue to drive us into the wilderness and guide us by your Spirit we pray, Amen.

\*re-member is intentional\* You are a member of the body of Christ, how do we strengthen that being part of the body of Christ?

~~Pastor Laura

## **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **OCIM Update**

Jimmy and I went to OCIM on Monday, February 19 to carry the 53 pounds of food our church family collected. Kay Stagner gave us a list of items that are needed: peanut butter, cereals, toothpaste, deodorant, and toilet paper. Thank you ever so much for your continued support of the OCIM Food Pantry.

~~Brenda Berry

## **Sunday Nights Have Returned**

We need you! Help serve as a leader of KidsKrew one night during our return to Sunday Night Fun! We need all hands on deck to make our Sunday nights work well. Go in with some friends, a class, a committee- we need servants' hearts! Thank you for signing up to help! We will continue through March 17<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss out!

**Available dates are March 3 and 17** - Lessons will be provided

Link for volunteering for KidsKrew

[Kids Krew](#)

## **Music Ministry Update**

### **Hallelujah Kids – Sundays during KidsKrew**

Calling all young singers from K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We started back last Sunday. We're learning some new songs and having loads of fun. This lively group will be singing on Palm Sunday during the 10:30am worship service. You won't want to miss it!

### **Easter Music – Sundays at 4:30pm**

Sunday afternoon practices started last Sunday at 4:30pm for our Easter cantata, "Is He Worthy". Rehearsals will also be on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Come and join us in celebrating the Risen Lord through worship and song.

## **Lake Junaluska**

We still have space to attend Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska Assembly near Waynesville, NC. Children (rising 4<sup>th</sup> graders and up), youth and adults are eligible to attend. We will leave on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and return on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

For more information contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317.

## **The Church Needs YOU!**

Do you have an interest in serving within the church? We would love to have you! The nursery needs volunteers to watch children during the 10:30 service, Sunday Nights Together (6:00pm when in session) and at various times during church events.

We also need volunteers during worship to greet, usher, read scripture and serve communion.

To sign up or if you have questions, let the church office or Stephanie Smith know. Once signed up, Stephanie will give you a quick tutorial.

## **2024 Mowing Schedule**

**LAST CALL!** Soon Spring will arrive and the grass will begin to grow! If you are interested in signing up to mow the church yard, please contact Cheryl Humphrey at [cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com](mailto:cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com) or text 919-730-9365 by 3/15/24. The cemetery and old parsonage yard are mowed professionally so this is just the areas around the church and fellowship hall. We begin the first weekend of April and mow weekly through the last weekend in October. You will need to provide your own mower, weed eater and blower, if used. Thanks for helping to keep our beloved Walnut Grove beautiful!

## Faith Formation at Camp Chestnut Ridge

We all long to nurture our children in the faith and see them deepen in their walk with Jesus Christ. Every Monday night starting on Feb. 12th, there will be a gathering with a free meal, fellowship, and faith formation for your family or a family you might want to invite nearby. Families are asked to commit from February until the end of the school year on Monday nights for this gathering at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and reach out to Meg Hoffman at [meg@campchestnutridge.org](mailto:meg@campchestnutridge.org) if you have questions. For more information, check out: <https://www.campchestnutridge.org/seedsofffaith> for details.

## Prayers

You are invited to join us on this journey of prayer in 2024 as we strengthen our prayer lives together each and every day. We know the power of prayer in our lives and in our world. God continues to heal, perform miracles, and offer grace and mercy in unexpected ways. We give thanks for the ways the Holy Spirit moves among us. We'll have a new list each month with prayer prompts for us each to grow in our intercessory prayers and broaden our circles to those we might not consider in our daily prayers. Use this list, pass it on, and let it guide you closer to others and to God in 2024!

# February Prayers

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- Feb. 1st- Widows/ Widowers
  - Feb. 2nd- Survivors of War
  - Feb. 3rd – Our Children Doing Mission Work for OCIM
  - Feb. 4th- Nourishment for our souls with Holy Communion
  - Feb. 5th- Deepen in our faith
  - Feb. 6th- For God to open our eyes
  - Feb. 7th – For God to open our ears
  - Feb. 8th- For God to open our hearts
  - Feb. 9th- For the work of our Trustees Committee
  - Feb. 10th- For Our Valentine's Dinner
  - Feb. 11th- For our SPRC
  - Feb. 12th- For our Fellowship Committee
  - Feb. 13th – For our Worship Committee
  - Feb. 14th- For God to renew a right spirit within us as we enter Lent (Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM)
  - Feb. 15th- For Missions Committee
  - Feb. 16th- For Our Music Director
  - Feb. 17th- For Our Organist
  - Feb. 18th – Survivors of Domestic Abuse
  - Feb. 19th – School Principals and Vice-Principals
  - Feb. 20th – Those working in sweat shops around the world
  - Feb. 21st- Repent of our greed and consumeristic tendencies
  - Feb. 22nd- Our quilters
  - Feb. 23- Those receiving quilts
  - Feb. 24th- Sabbath rest
  - Feb. 25th- our children
  - Feb. 26th- caregivers
  - Feb. 27th- those without reliable transportation
  - Feb. 28th- Our police officers

## **Free Boxes**

If you need boxes for any reason, please feel free to stop by the modular and take as many as you want. This picture is one of many stacks of the boxes available.



## **Tithes and Offerings**

We have four ways to give to our ministries. If you would like your offering to be allocated towards a specific ministry, please indicate it in the memo of your check or you will be prompted on the website.

1. Give during our weekly Worship Services.
2. Mail in a check to 7215 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541.
3. Use our church [website](#). Click GIVE in the upper right corner.
4. Use our online giving app "Vanco Mobile".

## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **Prayer List**

- Ben Lloyd – health issues. Cheryl Humphrey's dad.
- Betty Sue Hyder (surgery on Friday, February 16th), Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
- Wahome Mwangi - serious condition
- Bob Atz who has bladder cancer/lymphoma. Friend of Emma Beckham
- Debbie Smith who recently had back surgery. She is Tyler Smith's mom
- Herring Family (Linda and husband Dortch), Dortch has been in Duke Hospital for several weeks with dementia while they try to find him a permanent facility to go to. Dortch is Jane Sparks' brother-in-law.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

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### **Quilt**

Robin Snead from Roxboro will have gallbladder surgery on March 1. Robin is one of our Walnut Grove crafters.

(The prayer quilt will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over the quilt before and after the service.)

## **From the Mailbox**

To Brenda and members of the Prayers & Squares Ministry,  
Thank you so much for the prayer quilt. It is beautiful. Thank you all for every love and prayer stitch y'all put in the quilt. Every time I use it, I will be thinking about the love and prayer y'all put in it. I believe in God and Power of Prayer. It works! Thank y'all again. Love y'all,  
~Snodean Logan

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

Friday 2/23 – Lori Freeland, Lynne Hall, Carmen Trembley  
Saturday 2/24 – Genna Taylor  
Monday 2/26 – Mike DiFabio  
Tuesday 2/27 – Todd Cates, Debbie Clayton  
Friday 3/1 – Derek Murray  
Saturday 3/2 – Judy Butler

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Kim at the church office at 919-732-5722 or by email at [office@walnutgroveumc.org](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org) so we can update our records.

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

[Sign UpHere! For Online Sign-Up](#)

## **Serving in Worship**

### **February 25th**

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Max Kemnitz  
Greeters: Lorraine & Phil Hines  
Ushers: Stephanie & Tyler Smith  
Nursery: Debby Donnelly/Mary Beth Elliott  
Scripture: Emma Beckham  
Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton  
PM Nursery: Leigh McFalls/Laurie Rogers

### **March 3rd**

Acolytes: Kennedy Dunlap/Magnus Kemnitz  
Greeters: Cheryl & Scott Humphrey  
Ushers: Lorraine & Phil Hines  
Nursery: Pam Kimrey/Mary Emma Roberts  
Scripture: Lorraine Parker  
Trustee Open/Close: Michael James  
Communion Servers: Kara & Mike Roberts  
PM Nursery: Leigh McFalls/Ashley Parker

**NOTE:** If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify the church secretary of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

## Upcoming Happenings

- Friday-Sat., Feb. 23-24 Walnut Grove Crafters
- Sunday, February 25  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
10:45am Children's Church  
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:00-7:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
- Wednesday, February 28  
7:00pm Worship Choir  
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
- Thursday, February 29  
1:00pm Worship Band
- Sunday, March 3  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:00-7:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
- Wednesday, March 6  
Faith Over Fear drive by spaghetti dinner  
6:30pm Worship Band  
7:00pm Worship Choir  
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
- Sunday, March 10 **!! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (SPRING FORWARD)**  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
10:45am Children's Church  
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:00-7:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
- Wednesday, March 13  
11:30am Mary Martha Busy Ladies – Prego's Trattoria in Burlington  
7:00pm Worship Choir  
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)

Sunday, March 17	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter) 5:30pm Dinner 6:00-7:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wednesday, March 20	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir 7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
Friday-Sat., March 22-23	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, March 24	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter) 4:30pm Easter Egg Hunt w/dinner to follow for everyone
Monday, March 25	7:00pm Covenant Council meeting
Wednesday, March 27	7:00pm Worship Choir (Easter)
Thursday, March 28	6:30pm Maundy Thursday Meal & Service
Saturday, March 30	9:30am Worship Choir final rehearsal
Sunday, March 31	7:00am Sunrise Service w/breakfast to follow for everyone 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Easter Worship Service The Worship Choir presents the cantata, "Is He Worthy"

See You Sunday!!